

CLAIMS

1. A method for obtaining location information for a wireless unit of interest in a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

5 providing a system operative to procure location information for a wireless unit of interest from at least one location information source associated with the wireless network;

establishing an interface for communications between said system and an entity requesting location information for said wireless unit of interest, wherein said interface
10 defines a standardized format for requesting and providing said location information;

verifying authorization for said entity to obtain location information for said wireless unit of interest independent of location finding preferences of said wireless unit of interest;

obtaining, from said system, location information for said wireless unit of interest;
15 and
providing said location information to a recipient associated with said request.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said obtaining step further comprises:
overriding a privacy setting associated with said wireless unit of interest.

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3. The method of Claim 1, wherein obtaining is performed free of said wireless unit of interest being notified of said location information being procured.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said establishing step allows a requesting entity to define at least one trigger event for triggering the obtaining of said location information.

5 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said trigger event comprises at least one:
a schedule;
said wireless unit one of sending and receiving wireless communications;
said wireless unit being identified relative to an area of interest.

10 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said establishing step allows a requesting entity to define at least one said area of interest.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said area of interest comprises at least one of:

15 an address;
a point and radius;
another wireless unit; and
a geographic boundary.

20 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises:
providing a system operative to provide location information for a said wireless unit of interest from at least first and second location information sources associated with

the wireless network, wherein said first and second location information sources employ first and second different location finding technologies.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said system is operative to aggregate
5 information from said at least first and second different location finding technologies to enhance the accuracy of said location information.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said verifying authorization step
comprises verifying court ordered authorization.

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11. The method of Claim 1, wherein providing comprises providing said
location information to a recipient at a location other than that associated with said
requesting entity.

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12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
comparing said location information to at least one location of interest to monitor
the movement of said wireless unit relative to said point of interest.

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13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
upon an uncertainty associated with said location information overlapping said at
least one location of interest, notifying a third party that said wireless unit is proximate to
said at least one location of interest.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said third party is a law enforcement agency.

15. A method for obtaining location information for a wireless unit of interest
5 in a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

providing a system in communication with a first wireless carrier network having a first subscriber set and a second carrier network having a second subscriber set, wherein said system is operative to provide location information for subscribers of each of said carrier networks;

10 receiving a location information inquiry for a wireless unit of interest, wherein said inquiry requests said location information be provided independent of any location-finding preferences of said wireless unit of interest;

obtaining said location information from said system independent of said location-finding preferences; and

15 providing said location information to a location associated with said request.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said obtaining step further comprises: overriding a privacy setting associated with said wireless unit of interest.

20 17. The method of Claim 15, wherein obtaining is performed free of said wireless unit of interest being notified of said location information being procured.

18. The method of Claim 15, wherein obtaining comprises obtaining location information for a said wireless unit of interest from at least first and second location information sources, wherein said first and second location information sources employ first and second different location finding technologies.

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19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said system is operative to aggregate information from said at least first and second different location finding technologies to enhance the accuracy of said location information.

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20. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
verifying authorization associated with said inquiry for said entity to obtain said location information for said wireless unit of interest free of any location-finding preferences of said wireless unit of interest.

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21. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
establishing an interface for communications between said system and an entity requesting location information for said wireless unit of interest, wherein said interface defines a standardized format for requesting and providing said location information.

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22. A method for obtaining location information for a wireless unit of interest in a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

accessing a system operative to provide location information for wireless units within a wireless network;

5 identifying a wireless unit of interest;

defining at least one trigger event the occurrence of which will result in the provisioning of location information for said wireless unit of interest, wherein said location information is provided independent of any location-finding preferences of said wireless unit of interest;

10 receiving said location information upon the occurrence of said event.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said obtaining step further comprises: overriding a privacy setting associated with said wireless unit of interest.

15 24. The method of Claim 22, wherein obtaining is performed free of said wireless unit of interest being notified of said location information being procured.

25. The method of Claim 22, wherein said trigger event comprises at least one:

20 a schedule;

said wireless unit one of sending and receiving wireless communications;

said wireless unit being identified relative to an area of interest.

26. The method of Claim 25, further comprising:
defining said at least one said area of interest.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein said area of interest comprises at least
5 one of:

an address;
a point and radius;
another wireless unit; and
a geographical boundary.

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28. The method of Claim 22, wherein accessing comprises accessing a system
operative to obtain location information for said wireless unit of interest from at least first
and second location information sources associated with said first and second location
information sources, wherein said first and second location information sources employ
15 first and second different location finding technologies.

29. The method of Claim 22, further comprising:
comparing said location information to at least one location of interest to monitor
the movement of said wireless unit relative to said point of interest.

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30. The method of Claim 29, further comprising:

upon an uncertainty associated with said location information overlapping said at least one location of interest, notifying a party that said wireless unit is proximate to said at least one location of interest.

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31. A method for obtaining location information for a wireless unit of interest in a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

identifying a wireless unit of interest;

10 establishing at least one zone of interest associated with said wireless unit of interest;

obtaining location information for said wireless unit of interest from at least one location information source associated with the wireless network

monitoring a location of said wireless unit relative to said at least one zone of interest;

15 notifying a party other than a user of said wireless unit of interest upon an uncertainty of said location overlapping with at least one said zone of interest.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said notifying step is performed free of said wireless unit being notified of said location information being procured.

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33. The method of Claim 31, wherein said monitoring step is performed independent of any location-finding preferences of said wireless unit of interest.

34. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
a plurality of said zones of interest; and
a plurality of wireless units of interest, wherein each of said plurality of wireless
units of interest are monitored relative to said plurality of said zones of interest.